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INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WIPO

Applicant : STEINER-ATLANTIC CORP.
Int'l Application No.: PCT/US03/17392
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Title : WRINKLE DETERRING AND TEXTILE
CLEANING PROCESSES AND APPARATUSES

VIA FACSIMILE - 011-41-22-338-7140

Attention: Raiwsi Reikia, Authorized Officer
The International Bureau of WIPO
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STATEMENT AND AMENDMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19

Sir:

In response to the International Search Report mailed August 20, 2003, this Amendment is timely filed. Applicant submits herewith replacement page number 36 and new page number 37, which contains new claims 19-21 and respectfully requests that the same be entered in accordance with Article 19 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty

STATEMENT

Applicant notes with appreciation that numerous of the eighteen claims searched have no relevant documents cited in categories X or Y, namely 1-4, 9-15 and 18.

Concerning Seeburger, US 4,920,662, the Search Report lists claim 6. Possibly there is a clerical error and claim 7 was intended? Clarification is requested.

With respect to the five patent documents of category X and their alleged relevancy to claims 5, 7, 16 and 17, Applicant urges that none of these patents are relevant under category X, or even Y, for at least the following reasons:

Hoeflin, US 3,633,538 teaches the "conditioning" of fabrics with a solid-type fabric conditioner. Applicant's claims are directed to "cleaning". As well known in the pertinent industry, "conditioning" is not "cleaning". Moreover, '538 does not teach or suggest the independent claim 5 and 16 recited "highly absorbent pad material"; nor "scrubbing by" such pad material in the drum. Hence, the claimed invention should be considered both novel and involving an inventive step.

Grand et al. US 3,698,095 teaches a solid "conditioner", which is released from a substrate, when in contact with tumbling fabric. Grand et al. lacks any disclosure, suggestion or teachings above quoted with

respect to Hoeflin '538 and thus does not inhibit a finding of novelty and inventive step of independent claims 5 and 16.

Hendrickson, US 4,254,139 discloses a dispenser of "conditioner", but does not teach or suggest the limitations in independent claims 5 and 16 with respect to "scrubbing" the textile by rubbing thereagainst. Thus, these claims contain novelty and inventive step over '139.

Seeburger US 4,920,662 teaches a lint remover for use in a tumble-dryer. There is no teaching or suggestions of a "highly absorbent pad material"; nor "cleaning/rinsing liquid" as in claims 5 and 16; hence, these claims should be found both novel and having inventive step over '662.

Thurman US 5,147,715 teaches a heat retentive and desiccating pad for use in a clothes dryer, to decrease the drying time. Independent claims 5 and 16 have no such function for its recited pad material, which is for "cleaning", "scrubbing", etc. In fact, although not part of the recitation in claims 5 and 16, the pads in a clothes dryer would not decrease drying time, but by hydration of the textiles, would tend to increase total drying time.

Thus, '715 does not negate novelty nor inventive steps of claims 5 and 16.

Wherefore it is respectfully requested that new claims 19-21 be entered, and that Applicant's comments as to the relevance of cited patents be considered.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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/Vernice V. Freebourn 20 October 2003

the textile does not dry to the extent that wrinkles are formed prior to the textile removal from said drum.

19. For use in a process for drying wet textile in a rotatable drum of a textile dryer, the invention comprising:

highly absorbent pad material, for maintaining hydration of the initially wet textile in the drum by;

absorbing some of the liquid in the wet textile, when the pad material and the textile rub against each other during rotation of the drum; and

releasing back, from the pad material to the textile and the interior of the drum, some of the liquid at a rate slower than being removed from the textile.

20. The invention according to claim 19 in which said pad material is secured to the interior periphery of the drum to provide at least one of:

a cushion protective of buttons and zippers on the textile as they tumble in the rotating drum; and a smooth, soft hand finish to the drying textile.

21. In a kit for use with a textile dryer having a rotatable drum:

highly absorbent pad material to be placed in the drum with liquid wet textile;

whereupon, at least near the end of the typical drying cycle, said pad material hydrates the textile to deter formation of wrinkles.